

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Dr. L. Sylvester Odom, Executive Director,
United Community Corporation, Newark, New Jersey

Dr. L. Sylvester Odom is a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and a product of the public schools of that city. Dr. Odom is the youngest son of the late Dr. E. J. Odom and Mrs. Ethel Odom of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A graduate of Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Odom was ordained to the ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1943. A former public school teacher, Dr. Odom has also served as Community Work Director for the Butler Street Y. M. C. A., Atlanta Georgia.

Dr. Odom has studied at North Western, Howard and Yale Universities. He is a graduate "S. T. B." of Boston University, and holds the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Wilberforce University. Dr. Odom has held pastorates in Birmingham, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Colorado, and California. He is a former editor and manager of The Christian Recorder, official organ of the FME Church. Long active in civil rights, Dr. Odom is former president of the Sacramento branch NAACP, the Oakland branch NAACP, the Kansas City Community Committee for Social Action, and the Western Christian Leadership Conference. While pastoring in Los Angeles, Governor Edmond G. Brown appointed Dr. Odom to the Welfare Study Commission for the state of California which revised and revamped the California Welfare Code.

Prior to joining the UCC as its Executive Director in October, 1967, Dr. Odom served in the federal Office of Economic Opportunity as Special Assistant to the Director, Community Action Programs. Dr. Odom is married to the former Lora Butler, Hutchinson, Kansas. The Odoms have three children: Mark, Michele, and Larry, Jr.